

## NEW YORK HERALD

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of an acre had declined to 65 per cent. of the 1914 level. In 1921, with the recession in all prices in the city as well as on the farm, the decline in the value of an acre of crops outdistanced the drop in city prices. Last year an acre of crops declined in purchasing power to only 52 per cent. of the 1914 figure.

The search after methods to furnish the farmer credit to carry his crops is revealed by these figures as futile unless the larger credit is accompanied either by enhanced farm prices or lower prices for mill and factory products which the farmer has to buy. Higher farm prices can come only with an increased demand for farm products. This demand, fortunately for the farmer, has already begun to appear in the larger purchases for export. The buying power of an acre of crops in 1922 will show a marked improvement over both the inflation years of 1920 and earlier, and the deflation year 1921.

## Petty Graft in Seeds.

The House of Representatives has yielded once more to the free seed graft. It has put an item of \$360,000 in the agricultural appropriation bill to pay for another distribution of the little parcels of seeds.

It is the general opinion that these free seeds do nobody good. However, the Congressman thinks that they help him by calling his constituents' attention to the fact that he is still alive. They are free advertising.

Your real farmer, of course, has no use for the seeds. When he wants seeds he wants those of which he is certain and he goes or sends to his seedman. A good farmer declines to take the chance of wasting his labor on doubtful seeds.

As for the cost, what's \$360,000 when legislators long since stopped talking or thinking in millions and are using billions generally? An item of \$360,000 for free seeds is such a little thing when you compare it with \$40,000,000 for the pork barrel bill or five billions for a bonus.

The waste of \$360,000 a year in this free seed advertising for Congressmen means just the burning up of a thousand dollar bill every day for twelve months!

## The Unity of Islam.

The demand from India for a revision of the Treaty of Sèvres which would bring more advantageous terms to Turkey and a sense of security to the Sultanate of the Ottoman Empire and the Caliphate of Islam, startling and interesting as it is to the Western world, is in reality but one of the manifestations of the unrest throughout Islam. The Spaniards have been compelled to send large bodies of troops to Morocco in a final effort to put down a long drawn out revolt of native tribes; the Italians have met an armed Arab resistance in their occupation of Misurata in Tripoli; the French have only recently compromised their difficulties with the Mohammedans of Syria, and the British with the Egyptians, while the Greeks have found a defiant enemy in the Moslem forces under MUSTAPHA KEMAL Pasha in Anatolia.

All this does not mean that Islam has risen against Europe. Neither does it indicate that a new jihad, or holy war, has begun. The jihad lost its force as a threat half a century ago, and the signal failure of MOHAMMED V. in the world war to arouse the Mohammedans of Asia and Africa to the defense of Turkey was a striking instance of its lack of appeal in the present times. But to those persons who have made the present conditions a study it means that there is a renaissance of Islam and that the Orient is in a state of transition and ferment. "The world of Islam, mentally and spiritually quiescent for almost a thousand years," says LOTHOR STODOLAR in his recent work on the new Moslem world, "is once more astir, once more on the march."

Europe is in a large measure herself responsible for this situation. In the nineteenth century, when the Moslem world sank into decrepitude, she partitioned the Islamic world to suit herself. By her own aggression she awakened the conscience of that world and she stimulated by her own development and improvement entirely new and compelling ideals. The Mohammedans have in reality taken advantage of European domination to build up their countries. The facilities for communication afforded by the mails, the telegraph and the telephone have been employed to create a better feeling among the followers of the Prophet and to bring them into a closer union. The railroads which the Europeans built have made distant tribes neighbors and cemented friendships. The newspapers which have sprung up in imitation of the European press have carried into the remote corners of Islam the preachings and teachings of leaders at Constantinople, Angora and Cairo.

In the meantime the doctrines announced in that wonderful Wahabi revival in the heart of Arabia have been slowly and surely spreading from China to Morocco, from Turkestan to central Africa. The East has realized that it must protect itself or be destroyed by the West. The desert Arabs have been welded into a politico-religious unity such as the Prophet sought, let all Moslem people follow their example and find strength in union. The effect of this teaching has been to reconcile the fierce enemies of different branches of Islam and to lead them to face more confidently a common foe.

Europe is awakening to the situation; she understands it perhaps better

ter to-day than ever before. The question is: How shall she meet this great Islamic power, a power that extends from the Congo to the Pacific, from the Black Sea to the Indian Ocean, and that holds in its grasp 250,000,000 followers of the Prophet? Can it be controlled and at the same time led into the paths of amity and peace?

## The Gentle Gorilla.

Man's idea of the gorilla was generally that he was a peculiarly ferocious beast whose savage onrush a rifle bullet could scarcely stop and whose role in his jungle home was carrying African natives to his lair or swooping down from treetops upon unsuspecting hunters. He was the picture of violent savagery; a very embodiment of brute ferocity. Dr. CARL E. AKLEY, who has just returned from Africa with five skins of the biggest of the gorilla family for the American Museum of Natural History, says this is all wrong. The so-called man-eating gorilla is a very tame creature, ferocious only if cornered, timid and rather gentle; and it is no sport to shoot one of his kind.

With all the opportunity that man has had for studying this big simian, he seems to have found out little about him. The hunters of ancient Carthage described the gorilla much as the modern hunter does, but the world has gone on confounding him with the chimpanzee and the orang-utan. PAUL BE CHAILLY brought back some pretty tall stories of the gorilla's incursions on native villages and his ferocity. But, even accepting as a fact that the creature approached the villages, the most of the really authentic information regarding his behavior was to the effect that he ate the fresh grain and then munched up a cane patch by making his bed in it. It was his destructiveness rather than his ferocity that made the natives hate him.

The natives say that he seldom sees a gorilla; he is too timid to come often out of his forest shelter. This timidity may account for the fact that naturalists have always had trouble in fixing the real extent of his habitat. The natives, too, give him credit for being a rather faithful head of his family. If he goes out for a walk in the woods he takes his mate and young ones with him. When he returns he puts them to sleep in a leaf nest in the top of the tree and he watches at the foot for his slyest and most formidable enemy, the leopard. If ever the two meet it is a battle royal from which only one comes out alive.

Dr. AKLEY says that he saw a group of four or five having a frolic in an opening in the woods. They were playing as children do and fed only when they heard the click of the camera. It is said that all of the few gorillas in captivity were gentle and docile, and showed the chimpanzee's traits and ability to learn. But these captives were all young. An adult gorilla might be expected to object to being imprisoned and made a show of. That is a privilege to which he is entitled.

The gorilla is a monstrously big fellow. One of those killed by Dr. AKLEY weighed 360 pounds, was five and one-half feet in height and measured sixty inches around the chest. Such a creature was built and trained by nature for fighting. Many men with the same equipment might have been more quarrelsome and troublesome. It is his looks which have been against the gorilla and which have given him his bad name. We are glad Dr. AKLEY has put us right on the matter and we have no regret that he brought back the skins and not the wild timid creatures of the forest themselves to be captives.

## Shad.

On or about the first of April shad are due in New York waters. Even now fishermen are looking for them in Delaware River and Bay. From Charleston, where they arrived in January, to Norfolk, where they were running in late February and early March, fishermen have been following them up the coast.

But, alas, the good old days of wholesale shad catches are gone, presumably never to return. The pollution of rivers and estuaries by waste from factories started the work of destruction. Then came the oil from steamers to complete it. The number of young shad killed by these agencies is estimated to run into the millions, while the adult fish have been driven from their old spawning places in the upper river reaches. At the rate the destruction has been going on of late years it will be only a comparatively short time before the shad will be all but extinct.

It is from the year 1900 that the shad fishing industry seems to date the beginning of its decline. In that year Delaware fishermen alone caught 500,000 of the fine fish. How swift has been the pace of their disappearance is indicated by the fact that last year's total catch of these same fishermen was only 50,000.

As the catches diminished prices went up. Otherwise the fishermen could not have made a living, and as the prices went up shad, which once were so cheap as to be within the reach of everybody, became too expensive for all save those to whom cost was a minor consideration. Thirty years ago shad were sold at three cents apiece and the catches were so enormous that the fishermen were satisfied with the money they made. This year it is predicted that they will cost \$2 each. Even at the high prices which prevailed last year so small was the catch that many fishermen would have been out

of pocket had they not made up the shad deficit by large sturgeon catches.

Following action by the lower house of the New Jersey Legislature the State Senate recently passed a resolution urging Congress to enact without delay the Appleby bill, under which coast and river waters would be protected from the pollution by oil and chemicals which latterly has made such strides toward the ruin of bathing beaches and of the fish and oyster industries. For years the shad fishermen fought the pollution of rivers almost single handed. It was a losing fight. But now that the forces of destruction have been recruited by the nuisance of oil waste from steamers the attack has taken on a renewed vigor.

It comes none too soon. The harm already done is very great, but with proper legislation vigorously enforced the damage may be arrested where it is and possibly much of the lost ground in time recovered.

## France's Eight Hour Law.

For three years, dating from April 23, 1919, France has tried the experiment of a mandatory law compelling an eight hour day and applicable to labor in all branches of industry. In operation it has proved unsatisfactory. More than twenty-five chambers of commerce and other similar organizations representing the country's whole business community are demanding that the law be repealed or so modified as to permit free contractual engagements between employer and employee. RAPHAEL GEORGES LEVY of the Institute of France, one of the highest French economic authorities, discusses the question at length in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, reaching the conclusion that a change is imperative.

The law prohibits more than eight hours as a day's work for "laborers and employees" in all industrial and commercial establishments. It applies to both sexes and to all ages.

The law was too rigid was recognized soon after its enactment. A number of interpretative modifications followed, with results that in some cases are confusing. But however split up and rearranged, the eight hour day and the forty-eight hour week remain the limit for workers, to go beyond which is illegal.

The motive back of the enactment was admirable. The purpose of the authors of the law was to protect wage earners from injustice at the hands of employers and to protect them from themselves as well. It was insisted that they must have sixteen hours out of the twenty-four in which to do anything they chose except work for their regular employers. Theoretically they were supposed to devote this time to rest and recuperation. Theoretically they would do more work and increase the output in the eight hours of their employment. Theoretically the time limit would increase the number of jobs open and relieve unemployment.

Actually not one of these advantages has been obtained. If the wage earner was industrious he went to work somewhere else as soon as his eight hours were over in one place. Salaried men in one industry became competitors for jobs in other callings, thus throwing so many out of employment that loud complaints were made. Moreover, the excessive cost of production and the crippled railroad service resulting from complications caused by enforcement of the law compelled many establishments to lose their markets. Increased cost of production all along the line resulted in increased cost of commodities. Then began the vicious circle of demands for higher wages, followed by more living cost rises. Instead of greater vigor on the part of workers resulting from the shorter hours of rest, precisely the reverse has been the fact. Mr. LEVY's statistics show that the output has been uniformly smaller in quantity and poorer in quality.

All this has culminated in a demand for a change that has become too insistent to go unheeded. Absolute repeal of the law is not now urged. Modifications of its terms and abandonment of its inflexible rigidity to relieve industry from its crippling restrictions are what is sought.

It now develops that the bomb thrown into the unoccupied winter garden of the American Legation at Sofia, Bulgaria, Saturday, followed a letter threatening harm to Minister Wilson because of the Sarajevo massacre. But under the operation of Maschotta law SACRO and VANZETTI are still alive, protected in their struggle for a new trial. The ways of radical plotters pass the understanding of sane men.

The Doukhobor leaders in Canada who recently announced that they contemplated killing their grandparents and their babies as a protest against the enforcement of the Dominion statutes have now sought to placate public opinion by explaining that the slaughter they had in mind was theatrical only. It is to be hoped they have learned that even theatrical murder is not approved in the old fashioned communities that make up most of the civilized world.

## Alibi.

The March hare—I may be mad, but I haven't proposed any bonus scheme.

## Appraisement.

The world is but a Punching Bag For those who pass it by way.

O Pilgrim, bound you know not where Get thee a studied collar with a heavy silver bell so as to warn the birds of thy approach.

That gives you energy! But as for altering its shape, For good or evil—Nay!

'Tis only a great Punching Bag And meant for use that way.

M. E. B. LINN.

## Resisting Bandits.

Route of Holdup Men by a Man of 70 In the Old Days.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: The holdups that seem to be prevalent are due to the supineness of the victims as well as to the Sullivan law, which makes a criminal of every respectable citizen who dares to provide means for his protection. I recall an incident which occurred some fifty-six years ago to my grandfather, James H. Weeks, whose residence, with no near neighbors, was located at the extreme eastern end of the village of Yaphank.

He was the owner of an extensive tract of land comprising a large portion of the present Camp Upton and employed many men in cutting cordwood for the engines of the railroad company, of which he had been promoter, director and president.

In September, 1866, when he was nearing the age of 70 years, he sold for cash a farm of some 160 acres within his tract. He at once deposited the money in his bank. Late one Saturday evening, several days afterward, while seated with his aged wife in a small front room of his residence, a knock at the door was heard. As he rose his wife opened it, disclosing four men standing without.

Two of them with faces masked rushed in, one pointing a pistol at him and the other a similar weapon at my grandfather, and demanded the money received for the farm with threats to kill on failure to comply. Without a moment's hesitation or uttering a word my grandfather grasped the pistol arm of the nearest ruffian, hurled him violently backward and instantly thereafter grappled with the other, whom he partially forced through the window sash, and the next moment he threw them both out of the door, the rear one falling heavily backward as he tripped against the door scraper on the stoop.

Apparently amazed and terrified at this unexpected resistance, the bandits fled precipitately, their speed being accelerated by the blowing by my grandfather of a horn which was kept at hand ready for such emergencies. The man who tripped lost his large felt hat as he fell and it was recognized as belonging to a fellow who was a noted ruffian, game law poacher and trespasser. The next morning my father, William J. Weeks, trailed his tracks and those of his associates along the dirt roads to their respective homes.

No action was ever taken or complaint made, but the hat was duly preserved as a trophy. Neither my grandfather, my parents nor anybody else in the village has ever been similarly troubled. ARCHIBALD C. WEEKS, BROOKLYN, March 14.

## The Wife and the Hyphen.

Her Maiden Name Useful as a Record of Family History.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Regarding what your correspondent writes about the practice of hyphenating the maiden name of the married name of a wife, let me say that in Spain and South America this point was settled centuries ago.

Say, for instance, Alice Astor marries George Grey; she then becomes Alice Astor Grey and signs herself as such; is likewise introduced; appears so in all legal documents; and is so referred to in the accounts of social doings.

In this way a woman preserves her family's identity and one can keep better track of family connections. The children of this union would sign themselves Alfred or Mary Grey Astor, giving precedence to the paternal name, the daughters, however, dropping the name Astor on marrying.

It would seem a very simple matter for women here to adopt the same method without the fuss that is being made. For instance, they could sign themselves Alice Astor-Grey, that is, employ a double hyphen, denoting double harness. FALSTAFF, NEW YORK, March 14.

## Of the Class of 1855.

Mr. Levy's Course of Reading Has Lasted Sixty-seven Years.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Writing to your paper C. Stegmayer says he has been a faithful reader of THE NEW YORK HERALD for sixty-three years and anticipates that if he lives to be a centenarian